



*Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane and effective drug policies since 1993*

February 3, 2012

To: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Health

From: Jeanne Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: HB 2406 Relating to Health  
Hearing: Friday, February 3, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 329

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in support of HB 2406 Relating to Health which requires the director of the Department of Health to convene a working group to determine how the State can come into compliance with federal mental health and substance abuse parity laws and regulations and enhance current state parity laws.

The definition of benefit disorder terms used by the state could limit coverage for mental health and substance abuse treatment. The variety of terms that may be used for alcoholism, substance abuse, substance use, chemical dependency, etc. need to be evaluated and defined for applicability to the new law.

DPFH believes that such a working group of stakeholders must include Substance Abuse providers, as they will have valuable input in this critical determination. We further believe that every effort should be made to make substance abuse and addiction treatment an integral part of Hawai'i's health care.

We urge the committee to pass this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

L A T E

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair of the House Committee  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair of the House Committee  
Members of the House Committee on Health

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Hearing: Friday, February 3, 2012, 9:00a.m., Room 229

Support for H.B. No. 2406, Relating to Health

As a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor for the past four years, I have been working in gender-specific treatment services, primarily with women and women who are pregnant. I strongly support H.B. No. 2406, Relating to Health, which would convene a mental health and substance abuse parity working group to determine how the State can come into compliance with federal mental health and substance abuse parity laws and regulations and enhance existing state parity laws.

According to the 2000-2008 Hawai'i Pregnancy Risk Assessment and Monitoring System (PRAMS) Report, "In the State of Hawai'i, an estimated 18.7% reported binge drinking prior to pregnancy. Maui County residents reported 20.8%, which is a higher estimate than the State average; in the State of Hawai'i, an estimated 2.7% reported drug use during pregnancy. Maui County residents reported 3.9%, which is a higher estimate than the State average; in the State of Hawai'i, an estimated 8.5% reported smoking during pregnancy. Maui County residents reported 8.1%, which is slightly lower than the State average" (2011). In order to assist our women and families, the variety of terms used for alcoholism, substance abuse, substance use, chemical dependency, etc. needs to be evaluated and defined to the new law to make treatment more accessible and affordable. A working group involving various stakeholders, including Substance Abuse treatment providers, could help define Hawai'i's needs.

By establishing a task group to assist the State in complying with the federal parity laws, it will help to address both the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care and most importantly, improve the wellbeing of our mothers and give our children a healthier start at life. I urge the committee to pass H.B. No. 2406. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 9:00 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2406 on 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

Testimony for HLT 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2406

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com](mailto:Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:  
Very strongly support!!!

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2012 9:25 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** robertscottwall@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2406 on 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM

L A T E

Testimony for HLT 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2406

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Scott Wall  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com  
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments: